

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to DD/I (Planning)

SUBJECT: Draft Paper on Intelligence Communications and
Related Procedures

REFERENCE: Memorandum to IAD's from Assistant to DD/I (Planning),
23 January 1958 (with enclosure)

1. There was general agreement by those in ORR who read your draft paper that you had ably pointed up an important problem of communications serving the intelligence effort. In fact, sufficient interest and concern were aroused by your draft to suggest that the most constructive approach would be for you to meet with some of the ORR people in a roundtable discussion.

2. In response to your request in paragraph 3 of the referenced memorandum, I feel it would be extremely misleading to attempt a quantitative response without a rather time-consuming survey of incoming information, received over an extended period of time, that relates to areas of primary concern to ORR. ORR does have distinct areas of current intelligence responsibility which demand rapid receipt of information from the field. Minimum delay is called for in obtaining: information on highly significant economic events within the Sino-Soviet Bloc (generally handled by the ORR Current Support Staff); information requiring evaluation and inclusion into the Biweekly which is supposed to cover all pertinent events to within three calendar days of issuance; information on daily developments in the international trade control field and on negotiations relating thereto; and information on critical developments in other priority fields, such as long-range aircraft and guided missile production. In a somewhat lower category of urgency, ORR should be up to date on all incoming information: required in support of NIE's dealing with various aspects of the Bloc economy; needed for the Quarterly Report on Soviet Economic Activities in Underdeveloped Areas for the Council of Foreign Economic Policy; required for papers on the same subject for OCB; information on hot issues that arise from time to time, such as the current emphasis on the Soviet shelter program; and information on Soviet activities in the Arctic and Antarctic as they relate to IGY and associated activities. As you know, a large portion of the information from the field that is utilized by ORR in the production of finished intelligence is derived from the types of source materials which you suggest should continue to be pouched. We feel that even this type of communications system could be improved.

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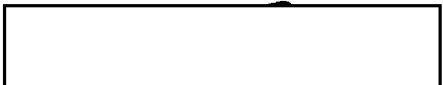
3. Certain points have been made regarding your draft paper which, I am sure, you could easily meet by occasional added emphasis or expansion in reasoning.

a. One comment was that a great deal might be done to improve the total situation without the establishment of a very costly advanced technical communications net to serve a major portion of the intelligence effort. It was felt that great savings in time might be obtained by improving existing coordinating policies, handling procedures, and single-agency practices, both in the field and in headquarters; only then would there be a fully justifiable basis for determining the value of the type of communications model suggested by you.

b. Although you clearly indicate recognition of the requirement for evaluation and analysis in arriving at intelligence judgments, some felt that you tended to give the intelligence process rather short shrift in your effort to speed up the transmittal of intelligence information to the consumer at policy level.

c. Another aspect of the total problem would be the search for methods by which the total take might be substantially reduced. Certainly not all of the current 26 million words a day deserve the type of electrical transmission envisaged in your model.

4. There are many intriguing elements in your draft paper, and I hope that you will find time to drop by for further discussion of its contents.


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